

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a processor; and
a memory storing program instructions, the memory and the program instructions
configured to, with the processor, cause the apparatus at least to perform:
a first logical interface configured to receive process data received from a
first host;
a second logical interface configured to transmit cause transmission of said data to
one or more further hosts;
a processor configured to define a group comprising one or more further hosts,
wherein a further host is added to the group in response to the reception of a
request; and
a cache, wherein said apparatus is configured to store received data in the cache
until a predetermined condition is met and, in response to the meeting of this
condition, to forward the data to said further hosts in said group, and wherein
the processor is configured to limit the group to further hosts situated at the a
same location, wherein the predetermined condition is one of:
receipt of a predetermined number of requests for a file from said
further hosts; and
expiry of a time limit that changes dynamically.

26. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein one or both of ~~a~~the request and ~~a~~the file is transmitted between the apparatus and the first host via a cellular communications network and ~~the a~~ location of the further host is defined in terms of a cell, so that the group is limited to further hosts situated in an area covered by a single cell.

27. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the memory and the program instructions are further configured to, with the processor, cause the apparatus further configured to forward a~~the~~ file over a wireless communication network, being ~~the a last network element~~apparatus located before an air-interface in a file delivery path between the first host and one or more further hosts.

28. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said apparatus comprises a router.

29-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the memory and the program instructions are further configured to, with the processor, cause the apparatus further~~configured to~~ receive requests from the further hosts via a first communication path and to forward data to the further hosts via a second communication path, separate from the first communication path.

32. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the first communication path and the second communication path comprise separate networks.

33. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a request for a file from a first host at a network element;

retrieving the file from a second host;

storing the file in a cache associated with the network element;

defining, by the network element, a group including the first host;

waiting for a period of time until a predetermined condition is met where, if further requests for said file are received by the network element from one or more other hosts before the period of time expires, then said one or more other hosts are added to the group; and

forwarding the file to the first host and to any other hosts in said group, wherein the group is limited to the first host and other hosts situated at ~~the a~~ same location as the first host, wherein the predetermined condition is one of:

receipt of a predetermined number of further requests; and
expiry of a time limit that changes dynamically.

34. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 33, wherein one or both of ~~a~~the request and the file is transmitted between the network element and the first host via a cellular communications network and another host is considered to be at the same location as the first host if ~~it is~~ situated in an area covered by ~~the~~a same cell.

35. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 33, wherein the file is forwarded over a wireless communication network, the network element being ~~the~~a last network element before an air-interface in a file delivery path between the second host and the first host.

36. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 33, wherein the network element comprises a router.

37-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 33, wherein the request is received via a first communications network and the file is forwarded via a second communications network.

40. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer-readable medium~~memory storing computer-executable instructions that, when executed, cause ~~a network element~~an apparatus at least to perform:

receiving a request for a file from a first host at the ~~network element~~apparatus;

retrieving the file from a second host;

storing the file in a cache associated with the ~~network element~~apparatus;

defining a group including the first host;

waiting for a period of time until a predetermined condition is met where, if

further requests for said file are received by the ~~network element~~apparatus
from one or more other hosts before the period of time expires, then said one

or more other hosts are added to the group; and

forwarding the file to the first host and to any other hosts in said group, wherein

the group is limited to the first host and other hosts situated at ~~the~~ a same location as the first host, wherein the predetermined condition is one of: receipt of a predetermined number of further requests; and expiry of a time limit that changes dynamically.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium-memory~~ according to claim 40, wherein one or both of ~~a~~ the request and the file is transmitted between the ~~network element apparatus~~ and the first host via a cellular communications network and another host is considered to be at the same location as the first host if ~~it is~~ situated in an area covered by ~~the~~ a same cell.

43. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium-memory~~ according to claim 40, wherein the file is forwarded over a wireless communication network, the ~~network element apparatus~~ being ~~the~~ a last ~~network element apparatus~~ before an air-interface in a file delivery path between the second host and the first host.

44. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium-memory~~ according to claim 40, wherein the ~~network element apparatus~~ comprises a router.

45-46. (Cancelled)

47. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium-memory~~ according to claim 40, wherein the request is received via a first communications network and the file is forwarded via a second communications network.